

Appl. No.
Amdt. dated
Reply to Office Action of

REMARKS

In the above-mentioned Office Action, claims 1-3, 7-10, 13-16, and 18 were rejected under Section 102(e) over *Alamouti*. Claims 11, 12, 19, and 20 were rejected under Section 103(a) over *Alamouti*. Claims 4 and 17 were rejected under Section 103(a) over the combination of *Alamouti* and *Wei*. Claims 5 and 6 were acknowledged to recite patentable subject matter. Claims 1-9 and 11-12 were further rejected under Section 112, first paragraph, and claims 9, 10, 12, and 20 were rejected under Section 112, second paragraph. Additional objection was made to claims 1-9 and 11-20 for various informalities in the claims, and objection was made to page 12 of the specification.

The applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of claims 5 and 6. Newly-presented independent claim 21 includes the recitations of claim 5 together with its intervening claims. And, claim 5 has been canceled.

Independent claims 1 and 13 have also been amended, in manners believed better to distinguish the present invention over *Alamouti*. With respect to exemplary claim 1, the claim has been amended, now to recite that the N-dimensional, trellis-encoded sequences formed by the multi-dimensional trellis-coded modulator are of dimensional values greater than two. Review of *Alamouti* indicates that the reference appears to utilize 2x2 block coding instructions to facilitate wireless communication error protection. No disclosure is made, or inference provided, that the disclosure set forth in *Alamouti* is applicable towards multi-dimensions, i.e., in which N is greater than 2, as now recited.

Accordingly, both claims 1 and 13, as now amended, are believed to be distinguishable over *Alamouti*. And, as none of the other cited references disclose such structure, or method, none of these other references can be combined with *Alamouti* to form the structure or method, as now recited.

Additional amendments made to claim 1 are made to overcome the Section 112, first paragraph, rejection thereof. Analogously, further amendments made to claims 9, 10, 12, and 20 are made to overcome the Section 112, second paragraph, rejections thereof. And, additional amendments made to claims 6, 13, and 18 are made to overcome the objections thereto. The Applicants note, however, that no amendment has been made to overcome the claim 1, line 11

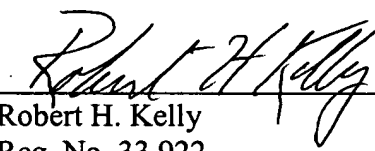
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objection. There appears to have been a typographical error in the Examiner's objection to line 11 of claim 1.

In light of the foregoing, independent claims 1 and 13, as now amended, the remaining ones of the dependent claims dependent thereon, and newly-presented claim 21 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, consideration for allowance of these claims, as now-amended or presented, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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